

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA**

CANTRELL E. WATTS, )  
 )  
 Petitioner, )  
 )  
 v. ) **No. CIV 08-249-JHP-KEW**  
 )  
 JUSTIN JONES, DIRECTOR OF )  
 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, )  
 )  
 Respondent. )

**OPINION AND ORDER**  
**DENYING MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL**

Petitioner has filed a motion requesting the court to appoint counsel. He bears the burden of convincing the court that his claim has sufficient merit to warrant appointment of counsel. *McCarthy v. Weinberg*, 753 F.2d 836, 838 (10th Cir. 1985) (citing *United States v. Masters*, 484 F.2d 1251, 1253 (10th Cir. 1973)). The court has carefully reviewed the merits of petitioner's claim, the nature of factual issues raised in his allegations, and his ability to investigate crucial facts. *McCarthy*, 753 F.2d at 838 (citing *Maclin v. Freake*, 650 F.2d 885, 887-88 (7th Cir. 1981)). After considering petitioner's ability to present his claims and the complexity of the legal issues raised by the claims, the court finds that appointment of counsel is not warranted. *See Williams v. Meese*, 926 F.2d 994, 996 (10th Cir. 1991); *See also Rucks v. Boergermann*, 57 F.3d 978, 979 (10th Cir. 1995). ACCORDINGLY, petitioner's motion [Docket #12] is DENIED.

**IT IS SO ORDERED** this 10<sup>th</sup> day of February 2009.

  
James H. Payne  
United States District Judge  
Eastern District of Oklahoma